

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



Cora Campbell, Commissioner
Jeff Regnart, Director



Contact:
Jeff Estensen, Area Management Biologist
Phone: (907) 949-1320
Fax: (907) 949-1830

Lower Yukon Area Office
P.O. Box 127
Emmonak, Alaska 99581
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2013 Yukon River Fall Salmon Fishery News Release # 15 **Fall Announcement # 14, District 1 Commercial Period 6** Districts Affected: Lower Yukon Area

Based on the 2013 summer chum salmon run, the projected fall chum salmon run size is expected to be greater than 900,000 fish. This level of abundance should be adequate to meet escapement and subsistence priorities and provide for commercial harvest.

Fall chum salmon have been entering Yukon River at a steady rate although catches in the Lower Yukon River test fish have been low the past several days. A pulse of fall chum salmon entered Yukon River between July 28 and July 29 and should be past the Pilot Station sonar by today. The size of the pulse was approximately 93,250 fish. Through August 3, the cumulative fall chum salmon passage past Pilot Station sonar is approximately 168,000 fish, which is below the historical median of 200,600 fish for that date. Based on run reconstruction, the estimated 2013 fall chum run size through August 3 is 253,000 fish which is above the historical median of 195,000 for that date.

District Y-1

Commercial fishing will be open for one period in the **Coastal Set Net Only Area** of District Y-1 on Monday, August 5 from 3:00 p.m. until 12:00 midnight. This will be a 9 hour commercial fishing period for the **Coastal Set Net Only Area** with gillnets restricted to six-inch or smaller mesh.

The remainder of District Y-1 will be open to commercial fishing on Monday, August 5 from 6:00 p.m. until 12:00 midnight. This will be a 6-hour commercial fishing period with gillnets restricted to six-inch or smaller mesh.

For the entire District Y-1, no Chinook salmon can be sold during this commercial opening. Fishermen can release live Chinook salmon or use them for subsistence purposes. **Chinook salmon caught but not sold must be reported on fish tickets.**

Preliminary results from the District Y-1 commercial opening on August 2 indicate a harvest of 545 fall chum and 194 coho salmon from 64 permit holders. The preliminary cumulative commercial fall chum harvest for District Y-1 is 42,870 fall chum and 1,307 coho salmon.

In District Y-1, subsistence salmon fishing is open during the fall season 7 days per week except for 12 hours before, during, and 12 hours after each commercial fishing period with gillnets restricted to a maximum mesh size of 7.5 inches. In District Y-1, subsistence salmon fishing will close at 3:00 a.m. Monday, August 5, and reopen at 12:00 noon Tuesday, August 6.

Recorded fishery announcements and updates will be available 24 hours a day at 949-1731 and 459-7387 (toll free outside of Fairbanks 1-866-479-7387). If you have any questions regarding this report, please call the Emmonak ADF&G office at 949-1320 or the Fairbanks office at 459-7274. The Emmonak ADF&G office will stand by on VHF channel 7A.

This has been an announcement by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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